



# The Florida House of Representatives

**Chris Sprowls**  
**Speaker**

## NEWS RELEASE

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**Media Contact:**

[media@myfloridahouse.gov](mailto:media@myfloridahouse.gov)

(850) 717-5780

## Florida House Unanimously Passes Legislation to Uphold and Codify Public Safety Practices in Law Enforcement

**TALLAHASSEE, Fla. (April 26, 2021)** — Today, the Florida House of Representatives unanimously passed HB 7051, relating to public safety practices in law enforcement, a bill championed by Speaker Chris Sprowls, R-Palm Harbor. This legislation is the result of months of bipartisan conversations with the Legislative Black Caucus. With the passage of HB 7051, the Florida House seeks to codify many of the policies that Florida's law enforcement agencies already have in place.

"About 90 percent of Americans want at least the same or more policing in their community. House Bill 7051 continues to build faith and trust in law enforcement," said Speaker Chris Sprowls. "I would like to thank Judiciary Vice Chairman Cord Byrd for carrying this bill as well as Representative Fentrice Driskell and the entire Legislative Black Caucus for their willingness to have this conversation. With these measures, we can begin our work to recognize good police practices and affirm confidence in policing. Our first priority as lawmakers should be to keep Floridians and their communities safe."

"As a former judge, federal prosecutor and now Attorney General, I believe fostering positive relationships between law enforcement and the communities they swore an oath to protect is vital to ensuring a Stronger, Safer Florida," said Attorney General Ashley Moody. "I want to thank Speaker Sprowls and the Florida House for working to pass HB 7051 to usher in meaningful steps to improving policing in Florida."

"Today we recognize the good work of Florida's law enforcement with their communities," said bill sponsor and Judiciary Committee Vice Chairman Cord Byrd, R-Jacksonville Beach. "This bill represents months of conversations with and between lawmakers, law enforcement, and citizens to promote best law enforcement practices. I would like to thank Speaker Chris Sprowls for entrusting me to carry this bipartisan legislation and his leadership."

“House Bill 7051 is a prime example of the good work we can accomplish when we work together, and I am proud that this legislation enhancing policing in Florida passed the House with overwhelming bipartisan support,” said Representative Fentrice Driskell, D-Tampa, Democratic Ranking Member of the Judiciary Committee and Prime Co-sponsor of HB 7051. “Floridians have been calling on us to act to improve trust between law enforcement and particularly communities of color. The Florida Legislative Black Caucus worked diligently with Speaker Sprowls and House leadership to highlight the most pressing policy needs, and we will continue to look for areas of agreement in the future.”

House Bill 7051 includes several common-sense statutory changes that will ensure Florida is the leader in best public safety practices, including:

- Requiring law enforcement job applicants to disclose if they are under investigation or previously resigned under investigation,
- Directing law enforcement agencies to maintain employment records for at least five years;
- Directing the creation of statewide law enforcement and correctional officer training standards and criteria;
- Requiring use of force incidents be independently reviewed and reported quarterly to FDLE; and
- Prohibiting the arrest of children under 7 years of age unless the violation of law is a forcible felony.

The bill now goes to the Florida Senate for consideration.

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